NATIONAL INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTITUTE
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March 26, 2001

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MAR 2 7 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of the Nomination for universal Service Administrative Company
Board of Directors
FCC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Ms. Roman Salas:

Enclosed you will find 1) an original and four copies of Senator Pete V. Domenici's Nomination of Karen Buller, and 2) 5 copies of Karen Bullers Bio. If you require other information, please contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carla Lopez
Admin. Assist.

Enclosures as cited
Cc: Senator Pete V. Domenici

No. of Copies rec'd 0+4
List A B C D E

PETE V. DOMENICI
NEW MEXICO

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–3101

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FCC MAIL ROOM

March 21, 2001

"In the Matter of Nomination for Universal Service
Administrative Company Board of Directors
FCC Docket Nos. 92-21 and 96-45"

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to support the nomination of Karen Buller as a Director of the Board of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Ms. Buller would fill the Board position representing low-income consumers, recently vacated by Mr. John Anthony Butler.

Ms. Buller, a member of the Comanche Nation, is the founder, President and CEO of the National Indian Telecommunications Institute in Santa Fe, NM. She is a nationally recognized expert and leader in the area of Native Americans and telecommunications.

Ms. Buller has consistently been involved in Universal Service issues, and even testified before the FCC about Universal Service on April 12, 1996 (see text of testimony at http://numa.niti.org/policy.htm). She has a comprehensive understanding of Universal Service issues concerning minority groups, particularly with regards to Native Americans, the most underserved group in the nation. I am confident that Ms. Buller has the requisite experience and understanding that could benefit the Universal Service Administrative Company's mission.

Please consider Karen Buller as a Director on the Board of the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Sincerely,

Pete V. Domenici
United States Senator

Karen Radney Buller Bio

Karen Radney Buller is a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. She is the President and CEO of the National Indian Telecommunications Institute (NITI), a non-profit organization dedicated to employing advanced technology to serve American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the areas of education, economic development, language and cultural preservation, tribal policy issues and self-determination. Ms. Buller is an advocate for education, telecommunications, and Indian issues.

She began her teaching career at Haskell College (now Haskell Indian Nations University). In 1982 Haskell students voted for Buller to receive Haskell's outstanding faculty award for her teaching excellence and commitment to Indian students. She has served on many parent and teacher boards in her current home city Santa Fe, NM and is well known by New Mexico legislators for her work towards education reform for Santa Fe Public Schools.

Buller is a recognized telecommunications expert in Indian Country. She has testified before both houses of the U.S. Congress and the FCC on the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Universal Service Fund and it's impact on Indian communities. Buller, "an early adopter" of the Internet, saw the potential of using the Internet to improve education for all students, but especially for Indian children. Her work at NITI ties together her passions for advancing Indian communities using the power of telecommunications to it's fullest potential, and improving education for all children.

From 1995 to 1998 NITI trained teachers at tribal schools to create culturally appropriate web-based lesson plans and to perform basic networking and troubleshooting of computers through its basic technical training and computer-building workshop. This project was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation and NASAs Minority University-Space Interdisciplinary Network (MU-SPIN).

NITIs on-going projects continue Buller's efforts to support Indians through the use of advanced technology. These projects are as follows:
- A partnership with the Navajo Education Technology Consortium on a five-year project to provide web-based cultural curriculum training to school districts with high Navajo enrollment in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. This project is funded by a 1998 U.S. Department of Education Technology Education Challenge Grant and a Star Schools Grant.
- NITI is creating an electronic language preservation model based on the Comanche language which will serve as a model for other tribes. Funding for this project is provided by the Fund of the Four Directions, a private foundation.
- NITI created a virtual web museum for the New Mexico State Museum of Indian Arts and Culture based on their *Here, Now, and Always* exhibit (http://www.herenowalways.org) that was created and curated by Native Americans. NITI will train members of New Mexico's 22 tribes using the *Here, Now and Always* virtual museum model. Funding for this two-year project is provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Technology Innovation and

Infrastructure Assistance (TIIAP) Program with matching funds from the Rockefeller Foundation and Native American Systems, Inc.

- NITI hosted *Digital Council Fires: A Native American Telecommunications Conference*, May 13-16, 1999 in Albuquerque, NM. The conference provided a forum for tribal people to discuss telecommunications access and content issues in Indian Country. Support for the conference was provided by the Ford Foundation.
- NITI's Legal Education & Assistance Program for Indian Telecommunications (LEAP IT) provides legal advice and consultation to Indians on a variety of telecommunications issues. This program is supported by the Ford Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation.
- NITI's Toward Affordable Connectivity in Indian Country project seeks to gather and disseminate information that will assist Tribes to make informed decisions about telecommunications issues. This project is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- The Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation is providing organizational support for the following NITI initiatives: *Digital Council Fires*, cultural curriculum, and outreach to the Tribal Colleges
- The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the List Foundation both provide funds to ensure that NITI staff and equipment remain at the cutting-edge of technology